

6/11/99

**NL INDUSTRIES/TARACORP SUPERFUND SITE GROUP
LEED ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.**

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June 11, 1999

Telecopy and First Class Mail

Mr. Brad Bradley
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

**RE: NL Industries/Taracorp Superfund Site; Granite City, Illinois
Consent Decree
Voluntary Progress Report 1 (May 1999)**

Dear Mr. Bradley:

As requested by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"), two copies of this letter are submitted on behalf of the NL Industries/Taracorp Superfund Site Group ("Group") on a voluntary basis to provide EPA with a progress report for activities related to the remediation of the residential/remote fill areas, the remediation of the Taracorp pile, and the remedial design for groundwater that were performed in regard to the NL Industries/Taracorp Superfund Site (the "site") during May 1999.

1. Actions Taken During Previous Month to Comply with the Consent Decree:

- On April 29, 1999, the Group's project coordinator issued a letter to advise EPA that the Group had selected ARCADIS Geraghty & Miller as its supervising contractor for the remedial design for groundwater and to request EPA's authorization to proceed. On May 6, 1999, EPA issued a letter (which the Group's project coordinator received on June 3, 1999) approving the Group's supervising contractor.
- During May 1999, the Group's supervising contractor, ENTACT, Inc. ("ENTACT") continued to perform remedial activities related to remediation of residential lots and remote fill areas. Major tasks performed by ENTACT included soil sampling and analysis activities, remediation of 41 residential lots, and remediation of 1 remote fill lot (210 Roosevelt) in Eagle Park Acres. The residential lots which were remediated in May 1999 are summarized in the Weekly Progress Reports (Table 1, attached). Through May 1999, ENTACT has completed remedial activities at 541 residential lots.



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- During May 1999, ENTACT also continued with efforts related to remediation of the Taracorp pile. Major tasks performed by ENTACT included: (1) screening of residential soils, (2) backfill of the residential screening area, (3) excavation of industrial soils and transport of the industrial soils onto the Taracorp pile; (4) shaping of the Taracorp pile, (5) excavation of the bottom liner area, (6) backfill and grading of the liner area, (7) installation of the geosynthetic liner, (8) site surveying, (9) air monitoring, and (10) related activities.
- On May 11, 1999, ENTACT received a letter from EPA disapproving ENTACT's proposed elimination of the retaining walls as part of the design for the Taracorp cap. During the May 24, 1999 weekly progress meeting, EPA clarified that the height of the retaining walls would be governed by the final volume of the materials to be capped.
- On May 20, 1999, ENTACT issued a letter to respond to EPA staffing and subcontractor questions at the industrial site. The letter provided information related to ENTACT's personnel at the industrial site and a list of ENTACT's current and future subcontractors to be utilized on various tasks associated with Taracorp pile cap construction activities.
- On May 24, 1999, a weekly progress meeting was held. Attendees at the meeting included representatives of EPA, ACOE, ENTACT, and the Group's Technical Committee. ENTACT issued meeting minutes to project participants on May 24, 1999.

2. Summary of Data and/or Results of Sampling and Tests Received:

- Data from soil sampling activities performed by ENTACT during May 1999 in residential lots and remote fill areas have previously been provided by ENTACT personnel to EPA and have been used as the basis for defining soil excavation depths.
- Data collected from air monitoring activities, soil screening activities, select fill soil testing, and from liner installation QA/QC testing at the industrial site are maintained by ENTACT personnel and are available for inspection by EPA and ACOE personnel at the site.

3. Work Plans, Plans, and Other Deliverables Completed and Submitted to EPA During the Previous Month:

- Not applicable for this reporting period.

4. Actions, Data Collection, and Implementation of Work Plans and Other Information Related to the Progress of Construction which are Scheduled to be Performed During the Next Six-Week Period:

- During June 1999, ARCADIS Geraghty & Miller will initiate efforts to prepare the Remedial Design Work Plan for groundwater.
- During June 1999, ENTACT will continue soil sampling activities and soil excavation and restoration of residential lots. Residential lots to be addressed by ENTACT personnel during June 1999 will be coordinated on a daily basis with ACOE representatives and will be discussed with EPA during weekly progress meetings.
- During June 1999, ENTACT will also continue activities associated with remediation of the Taracorp pile. Activities to be performed by ENTACT personnel during June 1999 are expected to include: (1) continued excavation of industrial soils and transport of industrial soils onto the Taracorp pile, (2) screening of residential soils, (3) backfill of excavated industrial areas, (4) installation of the sand protection layer on the bottom liner, (5) consolidation of the SLLR material in the bottom liner area, (6) shaping of the Taracorp pile, (7) air monitoring, (8) conformance testing for the geosynthetic materials to be used on the final closure, and (9) related activities.

5. Problems Encountered, Anticipated Problems, Actual or Anticipated Delays, and Efforts Developed or Implemented to Mitigate Delays:

- Not applicable for this reporting period.

6. Modifications to Work Plans or Schedules Proposed to EPA or Approved by EPA:

- As confirmed in ENTACT's May 24, 1999 minutes of the weekly progress meeting, EPA approved ENTACT's previous requests to modify the design associated with the storm water retention basin and the footprint of the Taracorp pile.

7. Community Relations Activities During Previous Month or to be Undertaken During Next Six-Week Period:

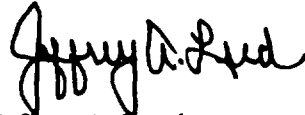
- Not applicable for this reporting period. Unless requested by EPA, no community relations activities are currently planned to be performed by the Group during the next six-week period.

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Should you or your staff have questions or comments regarding this progress report, please contact this office at (610) 670-7310.

Very truly yours,

LEED ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.



Jeffrey A. Leed
Project Coordinator

attachment

cc: Mr. Bob Rogers, Illinois EPA (w/attachment, by first class mail)
Mr. Tim Healy - ENTACT, Inc. (w/attachment, by first class mail)
Mr. Nick Valkenburg - ARCADIS Geraghty & Miller (w/attachment, by first class mail)
Technical Committee, NL Industries/Taracorp Superfund Site Group
(w/attachment, by first class mail)

TABLE 1**Weekly Progress Report - Activities Through 5/31/99**

	Lot #	Street	Depth	Notes	Soil Removal	Backfill	Stone	Sod
513	2069	14th	12		5/18/99	5/18/99	5/18/99	
515	2128	Dewey	6	2 lots	5/18/99	5/19/99	5/19/99	5/24/99
516	2026	Bryan	3		5/18/99	5/20/99	5/20/99	5/25/99
517	2130	Bryan	3		5/19/99	5/21/99	5/21/99	5/24/99
518	2134	Bryan	6		5/19/99	5/21/99	5/21/99	5/24/99
520	2724	W. 20th	12	2 lots	5/20/99	5/25/99	5/25/99	
521	1607	Spruce	3		5/21/99	5/21/99	5/21/99	
522	1903	Spruce	6		5/24/99	5/25/99	5/25/99	
523	2715	Denver	12		5/25/99	5/26/99	5/26/99	
524	2217	Bryan	6		5/25/99	5/26/99	5/26/99	
525	1748	Poplar	12		5/26/99	5/28/99	5/28/99	
526	1742	Poplar	3		5/26/99	5/28/99	5/28/99	
527	1842	Poplar	6		5/27/99	5/28/99	5/28/99	
528	2923	W. 20th	12		5/28/99	5/28/99	5/28/99	
529	1941	Maple	6		5/28/99	5/28/99	5/28/99	

TABLE 1 (continued)

Weekly Progress Report - Activities Through 5/15/99

	Lot #	Street	Depth	Notes	Soil Removal	Backfill	Stone	Sod
491	2125	Ohio	12	3 lots	5/3/99	5/7/99	5/7/99	
493	2224	Dewey	12	2 lots	5/4/99	5/7/99	5/7/99	
494	2606	Cayuga	12		5/4/99	5/6/99	5/6/99	
496	2102	Missouri	3	2 lots	5/4/99	5/5/99	5/5/99	5/5/99
497	2108	Missouri	6		5/4/99	5/5/99	5/5/99	5/18/99
498	2105/07	Missouri	3		5/4/99	5/5/99	5/5/99	
499	2030	13th	3		5/6/99	5/7/99	5/7/99	
500	2032	13th	3		5/6/99	5/7/99	5/7/99	
502	2010/12	14th	12	2 lots	5/10/99	5/10/99	5/10/99	
503	2057	13th	3		5/10/99	5/10/99	5/10/99	
510	2027	14th	12	7 lots	5/14/99	5/18/99	5/18/99	
512	2066	14th	6	2 lots	5/14/99	5/18/99	5/18/99	